

## Department of Justice

## Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown Eastern District of California

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## FORMER FRESNO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Ordered to pay \$2,000 to National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced that United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii sentenced TERRY LYNN ZANE, 58, of Fresno, to six and a half years in prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release for possession of child pornography. ZANE most recently taught music at Wolters and Lawless Elementary Schools in Northwest Fresno. Judge Ishii also ordered a fine of \$4,000, with half of the fine amount paid to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in Alexandria, Virginia, an organization that assists victims and families as well as law enforcement in the detection and prosecution of crimes such as the one for which the defendant was sentenced.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Fresno Police Department with technical assistance from the Clovis Police Department's High Tech Crimes Investigation Unit. It was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, ZANE admitted in a plea agreement that from May 15, 2008 through July 22, 2008, he possessed on one or more computer hard drives more than 600 images of child pornography. Some of the images were of prepubescent children, and some depicted violence and sadistic abuse. ZANE was arrested after Fresno Police investigators were called to investigate suspected child pornography images on a computer that he had left at a business in Fresno. The Fresno County District Attorney's Office initially filed state charges against him, but those were dismissed in favor of federal prosecution, because the federal penalties are much more significant. The federal indictment in this case was returned on October 16, 2008.

ZANE was remanded into custody upon his change of plea on January 12, 2009. At the request of one of the minor victims, who also prepared an impact statement for the sentencing, the court will conduct a hearing on the issue of restitution on June 8, 2009.